Picture taken from the compact disk "Big Love Songs" soundtrack for Dirty Pair 005 OVA.

A DOLLAR SEVENTY FIVE

Digitazation
by Dan Durkin

AFO-35

THE DIRTY PAIR.....MAISON IKKOKU.....RANMA.....LENSMAN.....MISC STUFF

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The AFO is the Japanese Anime Fan Club in Oklahoma City. Meetings are held every Second Sunday of each month at the NewWorld Bookstore, S.E. 44th & Sunnylane (in Del City). Times are from 1pm - 6pm. Meetings are open to anyone who wishes to attend.

"Dub Sessions" are held every Fourth Saturday of each month. The purpose of dub sessions is to allow people to obtain copies of shows that they are interested in. No fee or charge is required to make copies. Thos wishing to attend dub sessions should bring at least one VCR and associated cables. Meetings are held at the home of Robert Simmons, 5522 N.W. 23rd Apt. #109 in OKC. Call 399-2679 or 943-9170 for more details.

Submissions to the AFO Newsletter should follow these guidelines (this is what we want to receive): "The **primary** focus of the newsletter is on new material. Feature articles should be related to television, movies, or manga that are currently running, are about to begin, or have just ended". Articles are preferred typed, but that's not necessary. All art must be inked for copy purposes. No fan-fic or X-rated materials!! Send all submissions to the editor. The editor is solely responsible for the content of the newsletter

Subscriptions to the newsletter are (until Febuary) $15.oo dollars for 12 issue/1 year. Single issues are $1.75 each. Back issues are $1.75 each (except for #8 & #18, $3.oo) and are available upon payment. Order all issues from the editor.

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Contributors: The Dynamic Duo: Alec Orrock & Dan Durkin
Rich Schleifer
Tim Ross
Mark Craig
Randy Dunnell
Robert Simmons

Newsletter Price Going Up

Well, as you all should know by now, the Post Office will soon be increasing the cost of a postage stamp. Unfortunately, this increase is going to effect the AFO Newsletter, in that it is going to cost more to mail newsletters to subscripers & other clubs. Therefore, it is necessary to raise the cost of the newsletter to cover the increased postage. Starting next month (#36), the price will be raised .10¢ to $1.85 per issue. The current subscription price of fifteen dollars will be raised to $17.oo dollars.

Those of you who currently have subscriptions are encouraged to increase or renew your subscription now, before Febuary 9th, when the increase takes effect. By renewing now, you'll save $7. dollars off the cost of newsletters before your subscription expires. Those of you who've not yet subscribed are encouraged to do so now and save two dollars over the future rate. ANd a special "Thank You" to everyone who has subscriped to/or is trading with the newsletter: I appreciate the support.

James Staley, Editor.

Anime Poll Two

Enclosed with this newsletter is a copy of the Anime & Manga poll that is currently being run by Mr. Kevin O'Connell in many fanzines. The purpose of this poll is to ascertain which Japanese shows and mangas American fans would like to see translated. I would like to encourage everyone to take the time to fill out this list and mail it in before the Febuary First deadline. THis poll in turn will be given to all of the major magazines and companies that are involved in the producing and translation of anime materials. This is an opportunity for **your** voice to be heard: for **you** to make a difference!! Don't waste it!!

Music/Manga Reviews Wanted

Two subjects that I would like to see expanded coverage on, and receive more articles relating to, are anime music reveiws, and mangas. Especially manga, as this has been a very-weak area for us. I'm especially interested in hearing about new mangas that may have just come out, but will also accept articles telling about old favorites, why you like them, and suggest them to others. In regards to music reviews, i've pretty much done these myself. I would like to get some reviews from some of you other music fans out there. Talk to me if you need ideas. James.

Lensman Book Vs Lensman Movie

By Tim Ross

Believe it or not, it was written in the fifties!

Oh, I don't mean the original story from which the movie was taken....there isn't one, per se. But the original novels written by E.E. "Doc" Smith, a British SF writer, first published in 1957. They were excellant stuff, very over-the-top, a bit campy and corny, but fun beyond belief, and along with E.R. Burroughs Mars & Venus Callisto novels, form the standard against which Space Opera is measured to this day.

Space Opera, for those of you unfamiliar with the term, is that type of SF that emphasizes action, adventure, and mind-boggling concepts over scientific authenticy. Star Wars is a prime example of the genre. This genre largely began with Triplanetary, the introduction to the Lensman universe. For those of you interested in reading them, the Lensman novels are: "Triplanetary", "First Lensman", "Grey Lensman", Second Stage Lensman", and "Children Of The Lens". Do yourself a favor.....read them, in order.

These novels bear a strong resemblance to anime even at first glance. Heros with deadly weapons, superhuman speed and strength, martial skills, and intergalactic warfare on a scale of millions of vessels, with planets and even stars being used as weapons. It's hard to believe that they were written in the 50's when you read of "Q-Helix beams", force screens, and torpedoes composed of deadly Negative Matter. The panorama expands, movie-like before the mind's eye. This stuff was made for anime!

Why then did the Japanese ignore a great deal of this wealth of material? Those anime fans who cringe at the thought of an American "Adaption" of a japanese show may feel vindicated. The japanese heavily rewrote the Lensman story for their theatrical version.

The result is a spectacular, beautifully-rendered orchestra of light & sound that bears only a superficial resemblance to the source material. They did improve on a few things. I think I prefer their mecha designs (The Brittania was shaped like a giant teardrop in the books) and some of their character designs (Worsel was a 15-meter snake with multiple eyestalks in the books), and the anime Chris has the prettiest butt i've ever seen, real life included! But there were many changes that I felt were unnecessary or ill-advised.

My main beef is the changes in Kim's character. In the books he was a space-hardened veteran of many 'Star Wars' and a member of the Galactic Patrol who braved the mysterious planet Arisia of earn his leans. He was tough and cool, not a likeable farmboy with a much-more-than-passing-resemblence to Luke Skywalker.

It all boils down to this: I heavily recommend Lensman: The Movie to all anime fans. It has a wonderful blend of cel and computer animation, an exciting roller-coaster of a story, and characters that are entertaining and unforgettable. I **do not** recommend it to purists, or to loyal fans of the Lensman novel series. Youwill be outraged!!

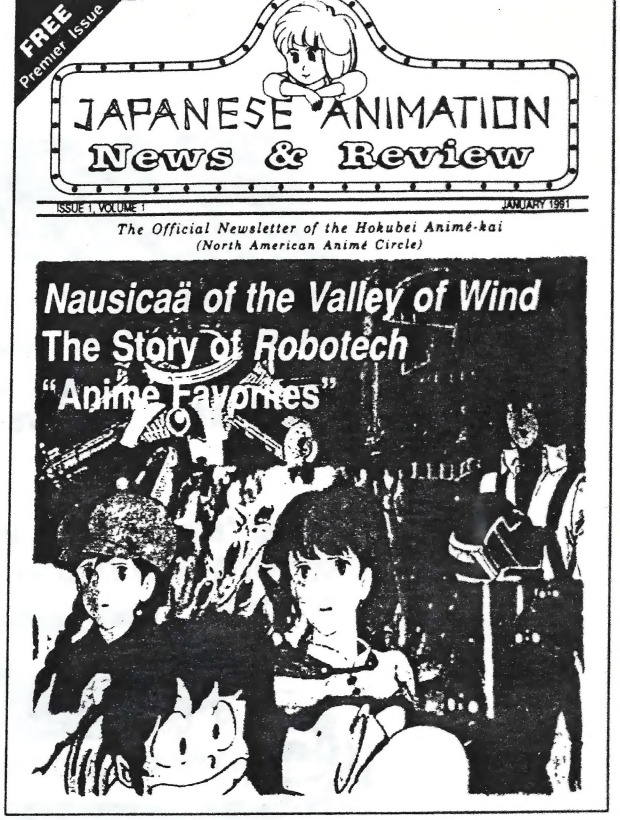
The books are available at B. Daltons, and at most bookstore chains. Also, the local library might be able to loan you a copy.

(Tim. Sorry I had to chop out the rest of your commentary, but I only have one page available.)

Typed by James.

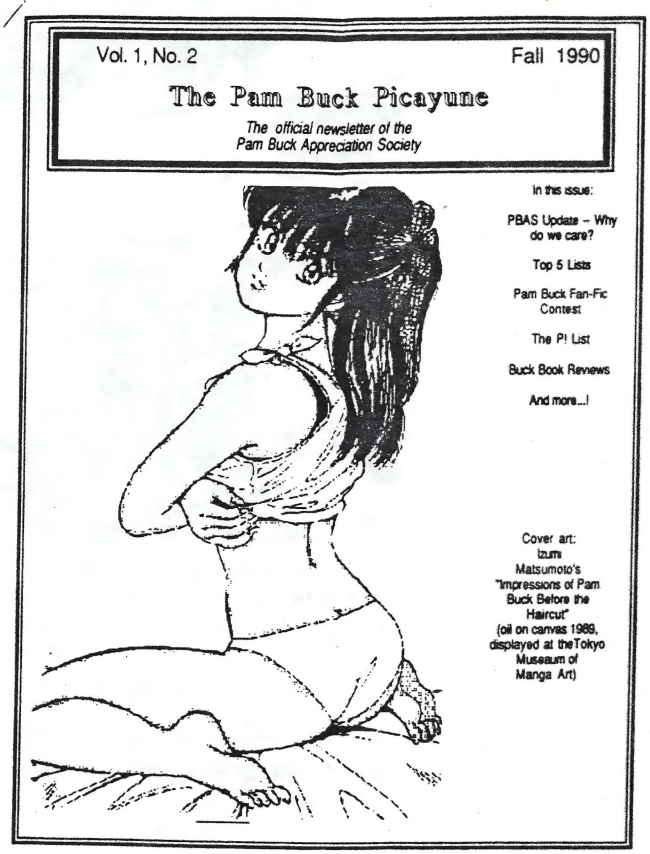
Misc. Stuff

ONE of the fringe-benefits of being the chapter club representative/contact, is the continual assortment of correspondence, promos, and newsletters that I receive. The past few weeks have seen the usual varity of interesting, weird, and interestingly-weird stuff arrive in my mailbox. I would be remiss in my job if I did not share these with you.



First off is the Japanese Animation News & Review, or 'JANR' for short. This fanzine-newsletter is now being published by a group of fans in Conneticut calling themselves the Hokubei Anime-Kai; "North American Anime Circle". The first issue is 8 pages and has a little bit of just about everything, except Fan-Fic. (Which is fine with me, I don't want that stuff anyways!!). For a 1st-issue, this doesn't look TOO BAD. (i've seen worse!).

Contact: Bill Ames
Hokubei Anime-Kai
P.O. Box 279
Botsford, Ct. 06404



For you fans of the Pinesalad Productions' Dirty Pair videos, this next one is for you! From the Pam Buck Appreciation Society (PBAS) comes "The Pam Buck Picayune". For those people who don't yet know, Pam Buck (AKA "B.D. Banzai") was the voice for Kei in the first two Pinesalad D.P. videos: "Dirty Pair Does Dishes" & "Revenge of B.D."

It seems some friends (friends??) of Mrs. Buck seem to think that she takes herself just a tad too seriously, and decided to do something about it. As you've no doubt already guessed, this is a newsletter dedicated to poking fun at Pam Buck. Here's a sample of the material you'll find inside the Picayune.

"The Pam Buck Role Playing Game"
"A Midnight Inverview With Pam Buck"
"5 Ways to Annoy Pam/5 Ways to Stroke Pam's Ego"
"Pam Buck: The Unauthorized Autobiography"

If this sounds like a bit of weirdness you'd enjoy, contact: Peter R. Payne
10849 Macouba Pl.
San Diego, Ca. 92124
(619)560-4272

RIDING BEAN

In Chicago, ace courier Bean Bandit rules the road, and operates on both sides of the law. If a cargo absolutely positively has to be there NOW, Bean's your man -- for a price. Want to ensure that the getaway from your latest heist goes smoothly? No problem -- but it will cost you . Bean's latest cargo is a 10 year old girl who is worth 50 grand when delivered home. What he doesn't know is that she has already been kidnapped, and he's about to be framed for the snatch. Meanwhile, the real kidnappers are making off with the $2,000,000 in ransom money! Will the Bean discover the ruse in time and get the money himself? Will he evade Inspector Percy's relentless pursuit? No matter what, the Chicago Police Department is going to have a huge auto repair bill! Riding Bean is the latest creation of Sonoda Kenichi, acclaimed character designer of Bubblegum Crisis and Gall Force. This is one Anime that doesn't run out of gas! Don't miss it!

AnimEigo

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December 22, 1990

Greetings Anime Fan!

We are proud to announce that our second subtitled Anime OAV, **"Riding Bean,"** will be released on January 15th, 1991. As with our first release, "MADOX-01," Riding Bean is a 100% legal, authorized, and unedited version of the original film. All we did was add high-quality subtitles. Riding Bean is 46 minutes in length, in full Stereo sound. The retail price is only **$34.95**.

You can order Riding Bean or MADOX-01 (a hilarious parody of the "Mecha" genre) through your local Anime Specialty Store or Comic Shop. If they don't stock AnimEigo tapes, tell them they should! Get your order placed now to ensure one of our special "First Day Of Issue" tapes!

If you belong to an Anime Club, you should know about our Group Purchase Discounts. You can get discounts of 25% or more simply by ordering 5 or more copies as a group. Call or write us for more details.

Or if you prefer, you can order directly from us. If you live in North Carolina, please remember that you must add 5% sales tax. We accept cheques, money orders, Visa & Mastercard. Our prices are as listed below.

RIDING BEAN	$34.95 + $3 S&H = $37.95 ($39.70 in N.C.)
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We look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Sincerely,

Janice Hindle
Peter R Haswell

Janice M. Hindle
Peter R. Haswell
AnimEigo, Inc.

PS: Riding Bean, like many Japanese OAV's, deals with adult situations in a realistic manner. It contains some violence, profanity, and brief nudity. If it were to be given a rating we would judge it just barely an "R," so it is not suitable for young children. MADOX-01 is milder; it would get rated PG-13.

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CD Review

Rating Scale:

1 ---------- 10
Worst Best

By: Mark Craig, AFO

Urusei Yatsura Symphony

No. of Tracks: 6 Running Time: 37:40
Rating: 9

This disc is yet another of the many CDs that Kitty Record has put out based on the Urusei Yatsura television series. Released in 1986, the producers have taken selections from the other BGMs in the series and have run them through various electronic instruments, such as synthesizers and sampling keyboards, producing something that somewhat resembles the original song, yet with a much different instrumemtation. The result sounds sort of like a cross between contemporary music and New Age, slow and relaxing in some parts, and upbeat and fast-paced in others. This CD is typical of Kitty's musical talents. This disc is a a bit different from the other Yatsura CDs, as it took something that made absolutely no sense, which is typical for a series such as this, and made it into something that made even less sense than the original (on a scale of 1 to 10 on making sense, this disc would probably rate a -5). The only problem with this CD is its rather short length. I consider any CD with a length of less than 40 minutes to be short. I do wish the producers had included more music into this album. But what is on the CD is quite nice(I especially like Track 3). If you're a fan of Urusei Yatsura, I cannot recommend this disc too highly. Despite the short length, it's worth the overprice I paid for it.

Editor's Note: Symphony Urusei Yatsura is an original music animation video. It consist of footage from the television series, tied together with new animation and reworked "symphonic" versions of the theme music. It is an extremely-beautiful video, but rather slow paced: highly-desirable when you're tired of fast-paced, action-packed mecha or martial arts videos. I have a copy if anybody's interested. The Editor.

RANMA NIBUNNOICHI

Ranma 1/2 Nettohen

Episode 1: Collision! The Food Delivery Service Race.

Aired: October 20, 1989

We begin with a flashback to about fifteen years ago. Genma is in the desert where he has been doing some martial arts training. Apparently he has not eaten in days and is starving. He comes across a nomadic person who had been cooking dinner for himself and his infant daughter. Genma, desperate for food, first begs for the meal, and when that doesn't work he trades Ranma (just an infant) for it. After finishing his meal and leaving, Genma manages to steal Ranma back.

Back in the present, Ranma-kun and Genma are fighting over some food. Although Genma eats the food, the fight continues. Akane, who had been eating at the table, leaves to do some training at the dojo.

Near the Tendo home, a strange arabic-looking gentleman drives his Rolls-Royce past a Chinese festival, stopping long enough to get a flier from a young woman. The flier is advertising a contest involving the delivery of ramen.

Akane is about to do her brick busting act when Genma, kicked by Ranma, comes through the ceiling and lands on top of her. Before Ranma-kun can gloat he is informed that there is someone looking for him. The gentleman, who had been driving the Rolls earlier, comes up to Ranma-kun, hugs him, and tells Ranma to call him "papa". He also asks where Genma is. Genma, for his part, has found some cold water and is trying his best to play the part of Panda.

The gentleman tells Ranma-kun that he has his bride, and in comes a woman in a traditional wedding gown. Soun comes out and asks what is going on, and is shocked to find yet another suitor for Ranma-kun's hand. He gets some hot water and dumps it on Genma, demanding an explanation. It is then when we hear how Genma traded Ranma for food. Ranma is angry that he was traded for only a bowl of rice and a fish. Genma corrects him, saying he was traded for a bowl of rice and two fish, and gets what he deserves for a comment like that.

Soun insists that Ranma-kun is marrying Akane. Akane, sounding less that thrilled, agrees. Ranma-kun comments on this, and Akane takes a swipe at him with a broom. The bottom comes off and is headed straight towards the bride, Kaori, but without so much as putting a wrinkle in her dress Kaori shreds the broom into little pieces. Finally Kaori's father asks Akane if she really likes Ranma. Akane doesn't answer right away, so Kaori tells her father that she would like to challenge

Akane for Ranma's hand. The contest they choose is the "Demae Kakuto" race.

"Demae Kakuto" is a tradition in the delivery of ramen. Long ago, bowls of piping hot ramen were delivered in a crate carried by a delivery man. On the way, a delivery man might have to fight to insure that food was delivered quickly, and intact. The object of this race, then, is to deliver - unscathed - a bowl of ramen to the end of a marathon course while fighting all of the other women in the contest.

At the start line, Akane is quick to remind Ranma-kun that she is not in the race for him. Kaori arrives, still in wedding clothes, until the race is about to begin. Then she loses the wedding gown and shows off some of her skills. Apparently Kaori's family were used to doing this for a living.

The race begins, with Kaori and Akane tearing through the competition. At one point, Akane hops on a skateboard and continues down a hill, with plenty of support from Soun. Ranma sees his father, dressed as a woman, entered in the race as well. Kaori maintains her lead while Akane is forced to dodge (and occasionally fall into) obstacles. Genma is taken out of the race after a fall into a local river.

Finally the two girls reach a bridge and Kaori starts to play rough. She throws some chopsticks at Akane which connect, taking out her ankle. Next Kaori wraps her ramen noodles around Akane's neck, trying to choke her. Seeing enough, Ranma-kun changes into Ranma-chan and takes over for Akane. Kaori lets go of Akane and uses her ramen to toss Ranma-chan's bowl high in the air. Akane manages to save the bowl, but Kaori is now gloating because part of Akane's ramen is still 'in the air'. Without this piece (a fishcake) Akane will lose even if she came in first. Ranma-chan manages to save the fishcake from a mutt, and does her best to catch up to Kaori. In the end, Ranma-chan ends up giving the bowl to a limping Akane, while preventing Kaori from moving. Akane wins by inches.

Taking their loss graciously, Kaori and her father leave. Ranma-kun tells Akane, "I helped you for the one year supply of ramen. Don't misunderstand me." Before they can start arguing, another strange gentleman arrives asking for his "son" Ranma.

synopses by Dan Durkin

Nettohen

An Explanation

by Dan Durkin

If you have had the chance to watch any recent episodes of Ranma, you may have noticed some distinct changes in the show. These all started back last September, about the period of time that we are getting to in our presentation of the show. Since these changes directly affect what you will be seeing, a brief explanation might be in order.

Sometime early in Ranma 1/2's run, a legal dispute over something involving the "Ice Skating" episodes led to the temporary halt of the airing of these shows (They would eventually be run later on as episodes 7 - 9 of Ranma's second season). The dispute must have been big enough to cause some major problems, because after the airing of the shows which introduce Shampoo, the studio produced a 're-hash' episode which abruptly put an end to the series. (Note: this was evident in the promo trailer, which simply had the characters saying good-bye). This was episode 18, which aired on September 16, 1989.

It was soon announced that Ranma would be back, but with a new studio, new key animators, and a new title: Ranma 1/2 Nettohen (Nettohen, loosely translated, means "excessively hot fighting"). The new series, starting over at episode 1, aired a mere five weeks later on October 20, 1989. The stress of taking over the show that quickly did show, however.

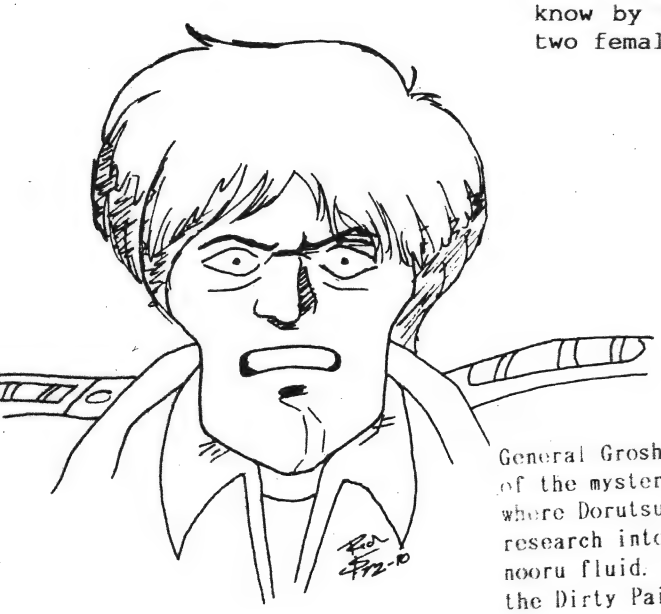
To begin their problems, the show had no opening credits sequence, a problem that would not be solved until episode 7. Starting with episode 2, a noticeable drop in the quality of animation (mostly in continuity; the flow of motion and similarity from one camera angle to the next) occurred. The studio did get a brief respite at the airing of the "Ice Skating" episodes (Nettohen episodes 7-9), but problems still persisted. The opening credits sequence was pulled after episode 12, and finally new key animators were brought in at Takahashi's insistence. Since that time (Nettohen episode 24), things have evened out, and the quality of the animation has come back up to the level of the 'first season'.

Despite these problems and distractions, Ranma has still remained a very entertaining show, keeping the integrity of the manga stories intact. Keep on watching, there's a whole bunch of people you haven't met yet!
-dD

(Editor's note: From now on, whenever possible, I will try to include an air date for each show, as well as a correlation for the shows that are adapted from the manga.)

Dirty Pair 005 characters

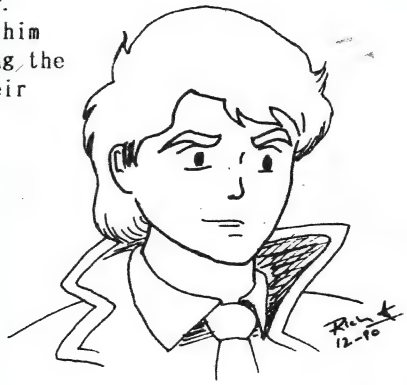
Breathes there an anime fan with soul so dead, that he doesn't know by now who these two females are?



General Grosha: Boss of the mystery planet, where Dorutsu is doing research into the Igu nooru fluid. Fights the Dirty Pair.

Donnenshutan: Dorutsu scientist invited by Zaaru as a researcher into the Igunooru fluid...Disappeared along with the DCL ship.

Danny: DCL's top air-line investigator. Accidents befall him due to his helping the Dirty Pair in their investigations.



Deik: Liria's father. Petitions the WWWA to search for the Donnen shutan family.

Liria and Laurie: Don nenshutan's wife and daughter, Taken as hostage by Dorutsu to force Donnenshutan into doing the re search.

Dirty Pair: Flight 005 Conspiracy
Synopsis by: Larry Mann

Flight 005 is preparing for departure from Planet Dolz. Once in flight, a violent hijacking occurs. The gunman turns toward a woman and her little girl. As the girl screams, the plane streaks into hyperspace, and shortly afterward explodes...

At WWWA headquarters, Director Goulet is more upset than usual. It seems the central computer has ordered Kei and Yuri to investigate not one, but two incidents:

> #1: Investigate why no insurance claims were filed resulting from the deaths of approximately 300 passengers aboard DCL Spacelines Flight 005
>
> #2: Investigate the disappearance of a chemist named Dornenschtern, as well as the disappearance of her family

Kei & Yuri's attempts at humor only strain Goulet's patience to the limit, and they hurry out the door...

On board the Lovely Angel, the Pair decide to begin their investigation at the site of Flight 005's demise. A stubborn officer refuses to give them access to the investigator station at first, but then Kei angrily tells him who they are. After finally gaining access to the station, the investigator explains that they have been trying to match identification with what little remains they have recovered, but so far the success has been minimal.

The Pair try to get some information from DCL Spacelines headquarters on Planet Dubahl, but the Director says that DCL cannot provide the passenger name list because their computer, for some unknown reason, has erased it...

The Pair know the shuttle was headed from Planet Dolz to Planet Zahl, so they decide to start searching for information at Zahl. Kei & Yuri take a liking to the space traffic controller at Zahl, but are put off when he discovers their identity.

At the spaceport, they are met by Danny, a security officer for DCL Spacelines. Danny has been ordered to assist them in their investigation. He tells them that the last two passengers used fake names, and with a little assistance from the computers they identify the listed address as an obscure research laboratory.

Kei & Yuri arrive at the laboratory a few hours later. The place looks rather unpleasant, and Yuri does not share Kei's desire to explore. (They do not notice that a timer started counting down from 999 when the door opened...) Kei drives a loading vehicle into the center of the lab, with Yuri sitting nervously at her side. They are both startled by a ringing viewphone. As they try to answer the phone, the timer reaches zero, and the entire laboratory explodes. Kei picks herself out of the wreckage, but Yuri is nowhere in sight.

Kei believes Yuri is dead and she is not able to handle this well: she intends to drown herself in alcohol at a local bar. Danny does his best to keep Kei away from the liquor, but he is unsuccessful. Slightly buzzed, Kei closes her eyes and orders another round. The bartender pours Kei another drink, and also drops in a small tablet. Danny wrestles the drink away from Kei and, unaware of the tablet, downs it in one gulp. Kei is about to argue with him but is shocked into full awareness instead when his face explodes and she is sprayed with blood. Kei is so stunned that she does not see the bartender aim a gun at her head. Yuri suddenly appears and puts a bullet through the bartender's brain. Police and an ambulance soon arrive, and Yuri has the assassin's gun analyzed by ballistics. Yuri tells her that the gun was the kind used by the Zahl Secret Police.

Kei and Yuri go to Zahl S.P. headquarters, and Kei angrily grills the Chief, who repeatedly insists, truthfully, that he has no idea who the assassin was or that he or his organization had anything to do with Flight 005, or with Dornenschtern's disappearance...

Back at the hotel, the Pair are informed that a small package has arrived for them. They assume it may be another trap, so they take some precautions against explosives, using mattresses to make a shield. Yuri discovers a bug attached to one of the mattresses, so Kei provides a distraction in the form of a loud radio. Kei is selected to check for boobytraps in the package. Finding nothing, they open the package and discover that it contains a letter from someone named Dick, as well as a small sample of a milky white chemical. The letter describes the chemical as "Ignahl Heat Repellent", and its potential value as a power source. Wanting to find out who is listening in, Kei uses the information in the letter to attract their listeners...

Driving a Volkswagen hovercar back to the spaceport, the Pair are ambushed by a large truck with several laser cannons. Kei dodges the first barrage of laser bolts, but then the situation is complicated by the presence of several armored hovercycles. Kei calls Mughi for help. Yuri is able to knock out a few of the hovercycles with her pistol, but then their hovercar is damaged, and it explodes shortly afterward. The Pair run for cover and prepare to make a stand. Fortunately, Mughi arrives with the Lovely Angel and obliterates their attackers with an overhead barrage. The damaged truck is leaning precariously on the edge of a canyon. Yuri produces a tape recorder, and they attempt to get some information from the terrified driver. The driver tells them that a secret agent of Dolz destroyed Flight 005, and kidnapped Dornenschtern and his family, but before he can say any more he is shot in the throat by a passenger, and the truck topples over the edge...

Back on the Lovely Angel, the pieces continue to fall together. Dornenschtern's family could have been kidnapped to force him into cooperating with this organization, whatever it is, and Flight 005 was probably destroyed and the passenger list erased to prevent any valid explanation of their disappearance. At that point Goulet calls and provides them with more information about the Ignahl Heat Repellent: when used in a nuclear fusion reactor, and applied in a certain way, Ignahl can provide the equivalent

of nuclear power with only a tenth of the fuel normally required. However, it is a highly sensitive component, requiring precise balance to maintain stability. And since Dornenschtern is the authority on Ignahl Heat Repellent, this organization would want him there to run things, and the best way to get to him was to take a few hostages (his family), while destroying a ship to make it look like they were killed, so nobody would take much notice. Since a secret agent of Dolz destroyed Flight 005, and the hijacking occurred after the plane left Dolz, it follows that whatever is taking place is happening in that area...

It is a cold night on Dolz. As the Pair arrive, they receive a message that Dick wants to see them. Still not knowing exactly who he is, they plan appropriately. Yuri visits the given address alone. Upon entry, she is promptly restrained by an armchair outfitted with titanium bolts. Her captors identify themselves as the Dolz Secret Police, and further go on to tell her that the organization behind this whole operation is the infamous Lucifer Crime Syndicate. Sadly, dreams of power have corrupted them, and the idea of the power to be gained through this new fuel is beyond all previous scope. If the fuel were used in a reactor that was linked to the weapons systems of a ship or space station, the potential for destruction would be incalculable. One of the agents aims a gun between Yuri's eyes. But before anyone can shoot, Kei appears outside the window in an attack helicopter. From outside, the Syndicate commander, who has been monitoring all these events, fires a huge volley of missiles at the room. Kei is forced to pick Yuri up, chair and all, and carry her out through a hail of bullets. A few minutes later the fire department arrives, and firefighters armed with flightpacks move to fight the blaze. As Kei releases Yuri on the roof, they are joined by an anonymous fireman who throws two fire suits at their feet. Shortly afterward, the fireman carries two suited figures down to ground level, shuffles them into an ambulance, and they drive away from the conflagration...

Before long they are well away from the fire, and the man asks what they were doing there. They tell him they were looking for a man named Dick, and he startles them by announcing that he is Dick. He explains that he had known about the true nature of the disappearances and all that for quite some time, and that he was waiting for the right moment to act. The three of them formulate their plan of attack...

A Mitsubishi supply truck races toward a Syndicate spaceport. The driver stops when he sees two bodies (Kei & Yuri) lying in the road. When he and his partner get out to investigate, they are sprayed with sleeping gas and dragged back to their vehicle. Kei, Yuri, and Dick don spacesuits and hide in the truck's cargo tank. The driver and his partner wake up, look around, decide they must have imagined the whole thing, and drive on...

There is a syndicate military space fortress orbiting Planet Dolz. The fortress is driven by a fusion reactor, using Ignahl Heat Repellent in Dornenschtern's special application, and is equipped with heavy-duty lasers and various other armaments which draw their power directly from the reactor... The unloading crew are startled when they are attacked by three figures hiding in one of the cargo tanks. Yuri uses her

multidirectional scanner to locate their first objective: a communications room. They proceed to the room unnoticed and make short work of the technicians. They locate Dornenschtern and his family, and then render the room useless. Finding a weapons room, they arm themselves with grenades and rifles. Dick outfits himself with an arm exoskeleton that increases the strength of his arms several times. Kei leaves an earring in a box of grenades as a homing device...

Kei goes after Dornenschtern, approaching him and quietly informing him of their plan. He starts to follow, then quickly turns back and removes a single fuel rod from the reactor unit, saying out loud that it needs to be looked at, and they speed away. Meanwhile, Yuri and Dick have located the family. Kei tells Mughi to home in on the earring she left behind and do as much damage as possible. At this point, Dornenschtern tells her that removing that fuel rod left the reactor unstable and that the fortress will blow sky high if the reactor is brought up to full power...

Mughi's attack draws fire, and leaves heavy damage on the fortress as one missile strikes the ammunition dump and blows several holes in the fortress hull. The Syndicate commander demands immediate full power from the reactor, so he can destroy the attackers. The scientists note the unexpected increase in power, realize what is happening and run from the room in terror. Mass panic ensues as people fight for escape pods and ships, and very few actually escape the fortress alive. The commander does not leave, even as everyone around him charges out in panic...

Various weapons have kept the guards at bay, but Kei & Yuri decide more drastic measures are in order. Kei lines a narrow tunnel with explosive tape, while Dick and Yuri temporarily seal a door. Everyone then grabs onto the walls, and Kei detonates the tape. The explosion breaks the tunnel away from the rest of the fortress, and a violent wind ensues as the atmosphere rushes out of that part of the fortress. Dick is nearly sucked out of the break, but he grabs onto the mangled structure of the tunnel. At that point, armed guards begin shooting at them with heavy-duty rifles. Dick is hit, and his exoskeleton is rendered useless. Kei begins shooting the arm claws away so he can free himself, but repeated firing from the guards prevents her from taking any real action. Suddenly a piece of the tunnel breaks away, separating Dick from the rest of the group. A stray bullet hits Dick and he is thrown into space. Kei tries frantically to grab him, but she misses, and Dick vanishes into the blackness.

Mughi arrives with the Lovely Angel, and everyone boards. The frustrated Syndicate commander fires a laser shot at the Lovely Angel, but only destroys the section of tunnel they had recently been in. The Lovely Angel flies away from the station, and the commander follows, trying to destroy the ship. Just as his sights lock into place and he is about to press the trigger, the reactor overloads. As the Lovely Angel jets away, the fortress disappears in a spectacular thermonuclear explosion.

Synopsis provided by Mark Craig. Arigato, Mark!

JEALOUS EYES

THEME SONG FOR THE DIRTY PAIR
FLIGHT 005 CONSPIRACY, FROM
THE ALBUM, "BIG LOVE SONGS".

Step into the night, lonely night
Under the moon light
Look into your heart empty heart
Makes me cry.

chorus: Woo Jealous eyes
She took your love away
Woo jealous eyes
You fade my life away.

Why did you give love to someone else
Don't be cruel, I can't go on
'Cause while you're gone, my life is over
Love is all, love is you, say you're mine
Let me be your girl, just tonight.

Like a movie star, you will leave me
With a kiss and smile
Just a broken heart, cryin' heart
Is left for me, yeah.

Repeat chorus twice

* Shown Dec 9, meeting/ Will repeat at Feb 10 meeting

めぞん一刻
MAISON IKKOKU
(CRAZY HOUSE / DEN OF WIERDOS)

EPISODE 1

お待たせしました！
A-MA-TA-ZE-SHI-MA-SHI-TA!

私が音無響子です!!
WA-TASHI-NO-OTON-OSHI-KYO-KO-DE-TSU!!

TITLE. I'M KYOKO OTONOSHI!!
I'M SORRY TO TO
HAVE INCONVENIENCED YOU!

EPISODE ANIMATION QUALITY:
1 25 50 75 100
WORST BEST

ART DIRECTION:
COMEDIC SERIOUS

STORYBOARDING:
POOR AVERAGE EXCELLENT

STORY(BASED ON LAYOUTS):
BORING 50-50 EASY VIEWING

VOCAL ACTING:
POOR FAIR SUPERB

MUSICAL SCORE/FINAL MIXING:
BAD GOOD

OPENING CREDITS (FLAVOR):
SERIOUS MELLO-ROMANTIC IMPRESSION-ISTIC

OPENING CREDITS (OVERALL APPEAL:
MECHA FANTASY ROMAN

OVERALL APPEAL(SERIES REPUTATION
EXCITING * JAPANESE SPEAKING BORING

FAN APPEAL (VIEWERS IN FANDOM):
1% 25% 50% 75% 100%

* SPECIAL NOTE GREY area indi- fandom reaction to my previous article on the series. (AFO# 32 Nov newsletter)

●OPENING CREDITS EPISODES 1-24

INITIAL AIRDATE: APRIL 30,1986/ Wed 7:30 pm. time slot.
PRODUCTION COMPANY:KITTY FILMS. Primary series contracts awarded to Studio Dean.
SPECIAL NOTE: Studio Pierrot lost out in aqquiring the contract to handle the animation. This is due to their loosing their previous contract to Urusei Yatsura in 1983, stemming from their lack of adapting to the refined " Model " of the characters. Information is unclear as to which studios were occasionally sub-contracted out to. I will **for now list** " Artland Productions " as the primary sub-contractor for the animation for the series.

* Interest NOte : Having been 5 years since airing, this one episode has probably been the most commented on in various anime club newsletters. The bulk of which range from quite excellent commentary in convention program guides to exceptionally poor comment off the set synopsis. Having a variety of cross reference, I will more than likely highlight mainly from Scott Frazier's and Toren Smith's synopsis of the show. Being one of my favorite series, I desire to present an authoritative Origional review and commentary. I will to the best of my efforts,Avoid presenting a PURE synopsis on the series episodes as we present them here. I myself being a VICTIM (being one of many) turned off looking at a blank page of text, only being motivated to better comprehend what I was viewing. I seek to eliminate the blank page syndrome (no or little pictorial reference to index the synopsis at glance for the new viewer.) I can do this for episode#1, but the Japanese monthlies anime zines predominately focused on 1 episode out of each month for the majority of their pictorial coverage. So my efforts on this will be comprimised by what pictorial reference is available. I ask that any one out there reading this who has any of the Japanese monthlies from Jan 1986 - March 1989 to contact me so I may expand my pictorial reference on the series. As we continue on with, these synopsis/ reviews will be compiled into a series episode guide.

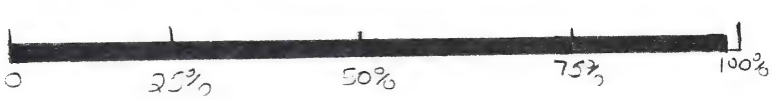
* Commentators Emphasis: Maison Ikkoku initially ran as a risk experiment by Kitty Films in the hope of boosting their ratings, since Urusei Yatsura's sagging (7:00 PM, Wed. Time Slot. Replaced by Dragonball... Toei Anime.) ratings began falling in latter 1984. This is due to the show was being comprimised by poor screenplaying from the Manga series; This resulted in a severe loss of the comedy element from poor handling. (Very deady for a comedy series to slowly convert to a dry and only mildly humorous show.)

It is clear that the ratings (as of Maison episode #2) Jumped traumatically, However the ratings settled back somewhat around episodes #12-20 until the end of the series. This loss of viewers was percieved trivial enough to justify pulling the entire story from the manga series 1-15 mangas (Average 11 stories each) to fall into 96 story episodes. A few manga stories were altered or cut so as to tame the more "Risque" plot elements (on TV) near the end of the manga (and TV) series. Rumiko's story on the whole (as seen in the TV series) remained virtually intact being translated into an animated TV series under the scutiny of few censors aware of what Rumiko was capable of delivering in her stories. Maison Ikkoku is one of Kitty Films shinier triumphs in the TV prime time slot. Much to the surprise of those watching the series (American fans as well as the domestic audience.) were relieved to see that Kitty for the most part... Didn't botch the series. It became one of the more popular series airing prime time at that time. It came through superb.

* I was not aware that I was capable of invoking such a massive jump of interest in this series, by way of my review of the episode we viewed at the Nov. meeting . I was informed that particular review revived (to a varing degree) fandom interest in the show. In 5-7 different clubs. Primarily from our newsletter subscribers across the continent and in various clubs, as well as this local arm of the AFO.

Irregardless, I'm confident people are more than capable of enjoying the show on their own if allowed to absorb the series, If approaching the show with an "Open Mind" and leaving their bias packed in the garbage can.

* Percentage of origional manga to survive the transition to the animated series:



(95-98% of story of the manga version survived the transition to it's animated form.)

* Only changes were adding extra shots to smooth out story flow. (Majority of Changes.)
* The only major changes were contained to the story in the latter part of Manga #14 and the first third of Manga #15.
* 1-2 Episodes were extra inserted stories Kitty Films wrote and stuck in the series. (Stories not in manga.) This in part were less than the usual quality in story writing. Try to find em' folks. Have fun...

Enjoy.

" HELP! "

MAISON IKKOKU: EPISODE 1
OVERALL EPISODE RATING. 100 EXCELLENT
* (based off entire series)
Main element: COMEDY DRAMA

In the opening, another serene dawn falls over the town. As various merchants act out their pre-morning routines, we are introduced to subtle narrated self-introduction. " I'm Godai Yusaku. I'm a COLLEGE ENTRANCE student(ronin- one yet to pass the entrance exams.) I really try hard, however...".

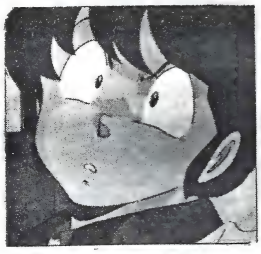
Godai's serenity is destroyed by uninvited guests in his one room apartment. Mainly... his neighbors in the apartment building where he lives,(the Maison Ikkoku) who in utter contempt pride themselves in disrupting Godai's private world. In jest, they appeal to Godai to give up his studies since he usually fails his exams. Godai threatens to move out. In apathy, they call his bluff.Yatsuya, Akemi, and Ichonise suceed in pushing him over the brink.Emotionally given no alternative,Godai throws himself at the mercy(by yelling out the window) to his community to help him. His pleas are met with only apathy from distraught neighbors, having been woke up by him. Blowing Godai off, all three leave after growing tired of him. Dejected, Godai is finally left in his room amidst their garbage.

Meanwhile that morning, a mysterious beatiful lady in a moving van stops to ask one of the local merchants for directions to the Ikkoku. Mystified, he asks " The Ikkoku, and you are going there?" ...." Hmmmmm". He then yells at his friends to come over. When they arrive he comments, " this lady is looking for the Ikkokan!"In horror they reel ....." EEEHHH?"

"Don't you like looking at a woman's body ?"

" Why? "
" I don't know."
" Give it up mam. "
" You'd be better off finding a better apartment."
" Are you certain you want to go to the Ikkoku? "
Kyoko: Why shouldn't I want to go to the Ikkoku?"
Crowd: " Why...?"

Back at the Ikkoku,having threatened repeatedly to move out, Godai finally snaps. Exiting his room with only a bag of necessities. Godai is taunted by Yatsuya by pretending he doesn't want him to leave. Actually Yatsuya is making sport of Godai. "Let Go! I'm leaving! Leave me alone!"



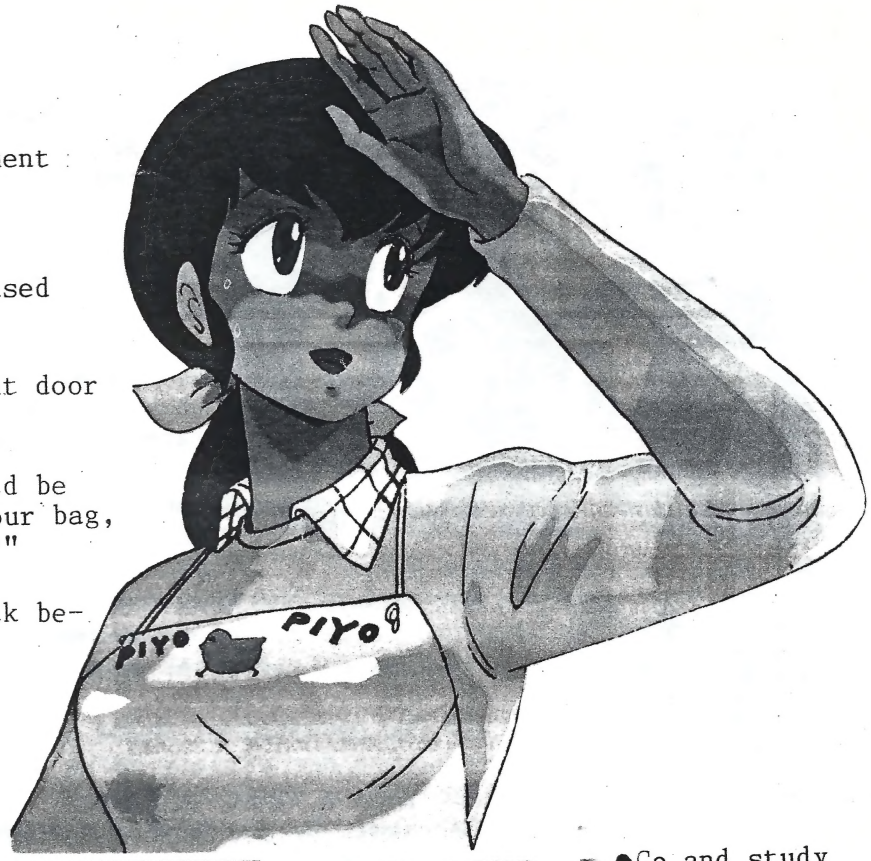
" Well... "

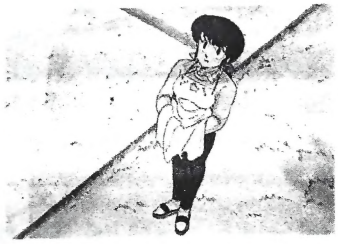
Aroused by all this noise,Ichinose emerges from her room.
"What is all this noise you pests are making? Huh?"
Yatsuya:"Ah, Godai is finally leaving."
Ichinose: "already, again. What's he waiting for?"
Godai: "I'm serious this time."
Yatsuya: "I doubt you're moving out."
Godai: "I'm not joking, i'm leaving."

"Godai....."

Ichinose: "Go ahead...."
Akemi: "You all be quiet. I can't sleep with all this noise."
Godai: "Why don't you go back upstairs and put some clothes on? I don't run around in my underwear."
Ichinose: "That would be gross..."
Akemi: "Yea...it doesn't bother the others. Why don't you like looking at a woman's body? Huh, Godai?"
Godai: "Forget it."
Godai: "I'm leaving here, you guys have been real creeps since the apartment manager quit. The new landlord is going to have a fit."
Akemi: "What's he mean?"
Yatsuya: "I'm not sure..."

Kyoko: "Uh,...is this the Ikkoku?"
"excuse me....am I at the Ikkoku?"
Akemi: "This is the Ikkoku..."
Ichinose: "Why?"
Kyoko: "I'm Kyoko Otonashi, the new apartment manager."
Ichinose: " Manager? You?"
Kyoko: "Yes"
Akemi: "What happened to the old man who used to run the place?"
Kyoko: "Well....."
----Image of old man at Mr. Otonahi's front door step. " I'm through... "
...then I volunteered for the job."
Yatsuya: "Godai, I'm sure the manager would be curious to know why you packed your bag, especially since you are leaving?"
Godai: "Huh?"
Ichinose: "Yea, you'd better tell her quick before you're gone..."
Yatsura: "Yea, quick..."
Godai: "I don't know what you're talking about."
Akemi: "Weren't you just talking about.."
Godai: "Never mind them, things aren't so bad here."
Kyoko: "All right then. I'm sorry to have inconvenienced you. Thank you very much."
Godai: "Thank you very much."
Akemi: "What are you doing down there? A new manager. I wonder how long she'll last?"
Ichinose: "I don't know."
Godai: "Kyoko Otonashi.....Ah..just look at her."
Kyoko: "Aright...let's get started."

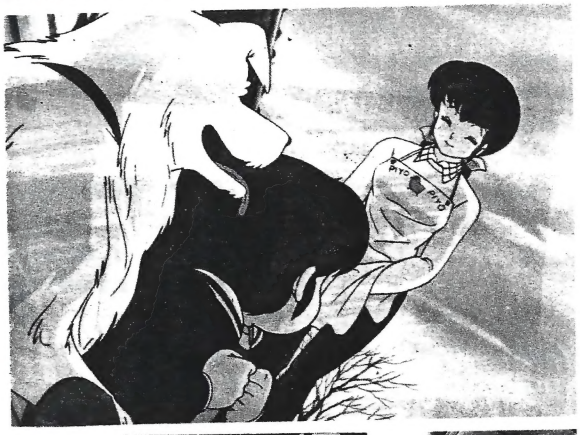




●Go and study hard and succeed, Ronin-san.

" Did you have a nice day?" ●

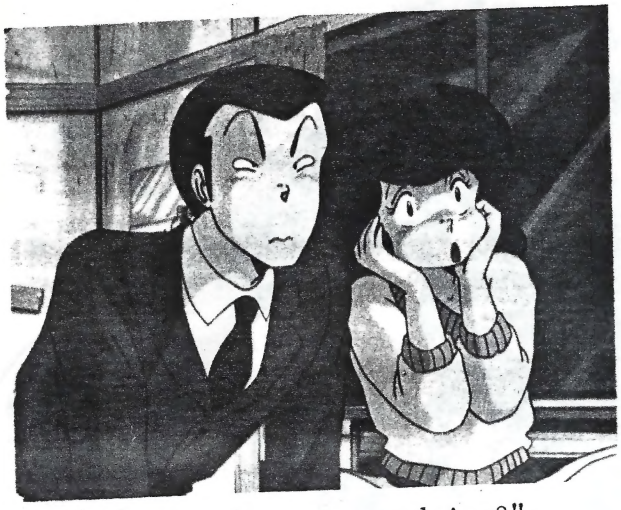
*Eye catch/commercial/Eye Catch



While in the process of Kyoko's moving in, Godai gazes at her darting in and out. Stopping for a short break, Kyoko notices Godai staring at her. Godai promptly excuses himself as Kyoko wishes him well with his studies. She innocently addresses him as "Ronin-san", which painfully reminds Godai of his constant failure to pass any of his entrance exaims. Calmly returning to his room, he sarcastically repeats Kyoko's words, which only succeed in drawing his anger. Deciding he doesn't want to be known as a failure, it hardens his resolve to pass his exams. Deciding to upgrade his image, Godai turns his attention to the degraded state of his room. His first project he confronts is the crawlhole in his wall Yatsuya made for invading his privacy.

●"Are you going to be at the party we are having for the new manager?"

Meanwhile, out in the front yard, Kentaro comes running in. "I'm home!" Stopping short of the porch, he turns to notice a doghouse in the front yard that was not there this morning. Kneeling to peek inside, Kentaro is caught off-guard by Soichiro, who sloppily greets him. "Where did you come from?"
Kyoko: "Did you have a nice day?"
Kentaro (yelling): "Mom!" "Mom!" "Mom!"
Ichinose: "Stop your yelling. What is it?"
Kentaro: "Who's the strange lady?"



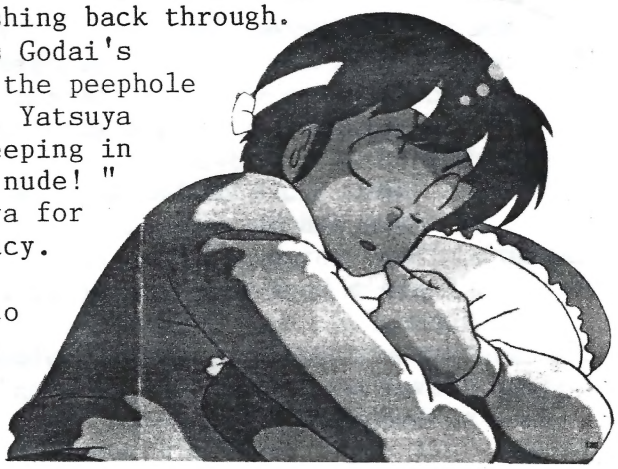
Ichinose: " She's the new apartment manager."
Kyoko: " You must be Kentaro. I'm Kyoko Otonashi. I'm pleased to meet you."
Kentaro: " Hmmm.."
Ichinose: " What do you call your dog? "
Kyoko: " He's called Soichiro. "
Ichinose: " Soichiro...that's a strange name. "
Kyoko: " Yes.. "
Kentaro: " Your name is wierd to me dog. "

Boarding up Yatsuya's crawlhole, Godai takes relief that he has regained his privacy...until Yatsuya comes crashing back through. This totally ruins Godai's mood. Heading for the peephole in Godai's closet, Yatsuya spies on Akemi sleeping in in her room..." I knew it, she sleeps nude! " Tempted to peek, Godai condemns Yatsuya for his disrespect of other people's privacy.

● " What is the manager doing?"

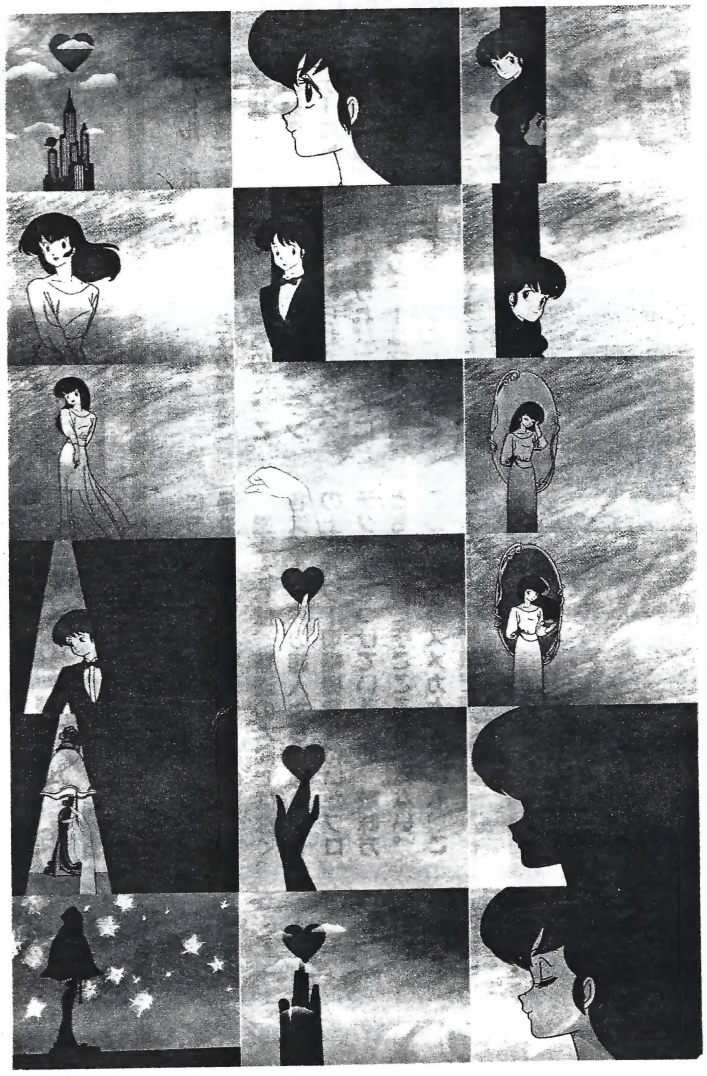
● " UH..."

Meanwhile downstairs, Akemi is eager to stop having her privacy being invaded, so she pays a visit to Kyoko.
" I'm Akemi. Do you have a minute?"
Kyoko: " What?"
Akemi: " Can you do something for me? Godai peeks at me when I sleep,through a hole in the wall.
Kyoko: " Godai's a peeping tom?"
Akemi: " Yea, he does it alot."



●" Manager..I'm so glad!"

● End credits: Episodes 1-15



Akemi then proceeds to beat on Godai's door....
" Stop what you're up to and get out here!"
Godai: " Why? "....Godai comes outside.
Kyoko: " Thank you."
Godai: " No, it's ok.."
Akemi: " Get out of the way!"
Kyoko: " Do you mind if we come in for just a second?"
Godai:" Just a minute..just a minute!" (frantically collecting the trash laying around his room.)
Akemi: "Gee, you're a slob. "
Godai: " Shut-up!"

Shoving his bed into the closet, he knocks over his stack of porno mags...much to his dismay.
Crawling into Godai's closet, Akemi points out the hole.
Akemi:" Take a look down here manager."
Godai: " What are you doing stupid?"
Kyoko:" It is here!"
Akemi:" See, what did I tell you?"
Godai:" No way!"
Akemi:" Not so? What do you take me for?"
Godai:" What do you think this is over here?" (pointing to Yatsuya's crawlhole)
Kyoko:" Ah, does this lead to Mr. Yatsuya's room?"
Godai:" Yes, it does. What does that tell you?"
Kyo: " Uh..."
Godai:" Yes..?"
Kyoko:" You peek at men too?"

Godai is blown over at her drawing the wrong conclusion.

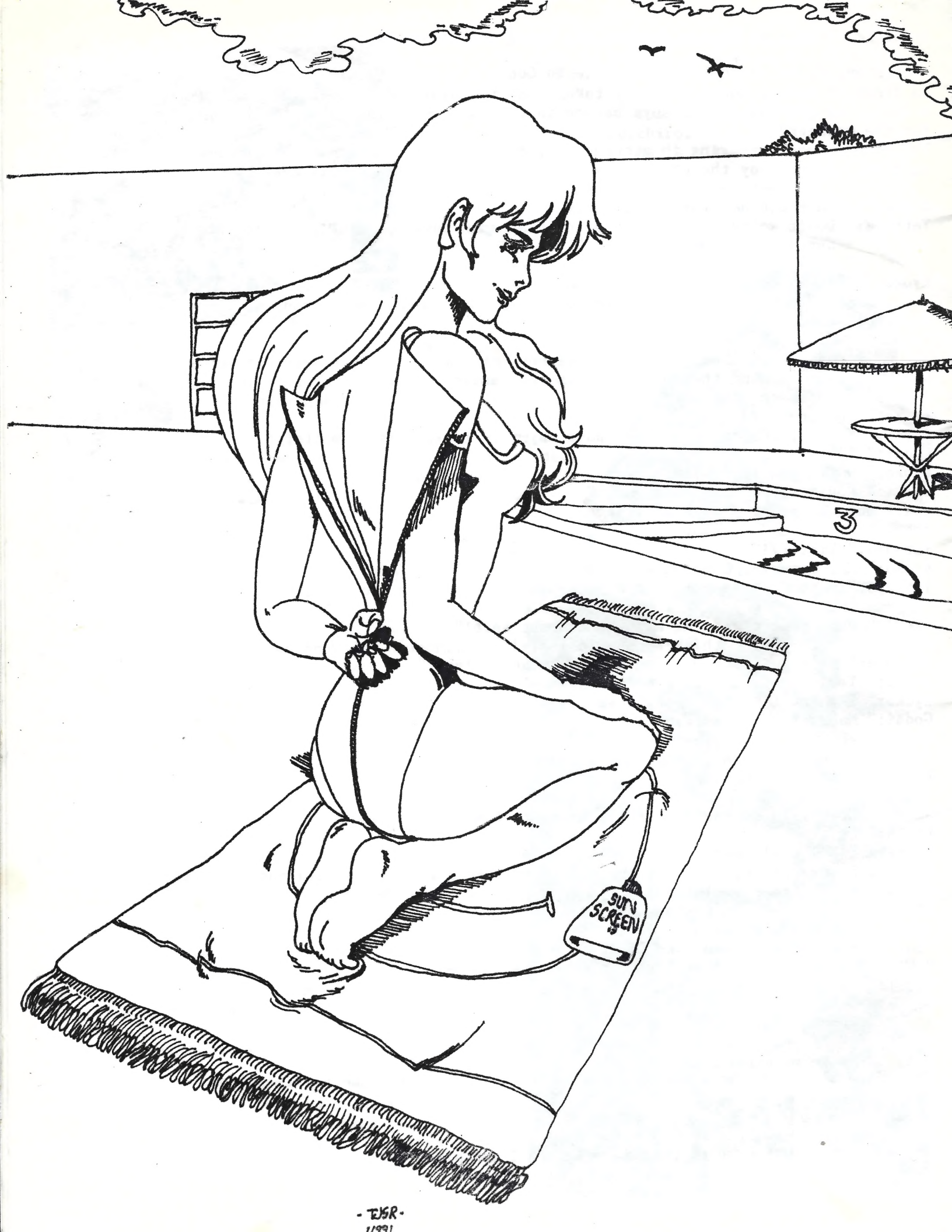
Later on, Kyoko boards over the hole in Godai's closet. Frustrated having been humiliated in front of Kyoko, Godai suddenly takes time to enjoy the view..namely...Kyoko's tush. Godai is caught just as Yatsuya barges in...." Are you going to be at the party we're having for the manager?"
The others come wandering in setting up , despite Godai's protest that he needs his privacy to study. Ignored by the others, he turns to his textbooks on his desk.

Kyoko:"Ronin might not want us to stay."
Yatsuya:" Don't worry, he doesn't study that much anyway.I would like to propose a toast to our new apartment manager."
" Cheers!"
Kyoko:" Thank you."
.....as the party rolls along, the terrible three become very roudy.
Kentaro:" Mom, quit it!"
Yatsuya:" Watch this... "
....As Ichonise and Akemi cheer Yatsuya on, Yatsuya maliciously destroys Godai's study notes while parading around the room. This is the last straw...
Akemi:" Here, have some more..."
Kyoko:" Shouldn't we leave?"
Akemi:" No, no...Godai will never pass anyway...so it doesn't matter."
Godai:" I've had it!"
Kyoko:" Ronin-san...Ronin-san.."
Godai:" Ronin-Ronin is not my name!"
Godai then retreats into his closet....
Akemi:" Get a load of that!"
Yatsuya:" Victory!"
Kyoko:" Mr. Yatsuya, I think we've imposed too much on Godai!"
Yatsuya:"If you really care for what he wants, maybe you should join him in there."
(singing)
Akemi:" Hey, you're missing all the fun out here!"
Kyoko:" All of you! I think we should leave!"
Yatsuya:" He's just acting. Don't let him get to you."
Akemi:" Yea, he pulls this kind of thing all the time."
Kyoko:" I think I've had enough! We all should leave.."
Godai:" Manager...I'm so glad..."
Akemi:" What is the Manager doing ?!"
Yatsuya:" Gee, she's so drunk. She's undressing!"
Kyoko:" Ah, just a minute."
Yatsuya:" OOHH! She's got an excellent body!"
Akemi:" OOOH! I'm so envious of the managers body !"
Kyoko:" Uh.."
Yatsuya:" Now she's dancing around!" Akemi:" OH...yea!"
* Godai sticks his nose out of the closet to take a look. Yatsuya and Akemi thrust Godai down to the floor....Yatsuya:" See what type of person he is."
Akemi:" See what I was trying to tell you!"
Kyoko:" You all are mean."
The next morning, Kyoko asks Soichiro...
" Will I be able to endure living with these people?"
Godai:" Let go! Let go! I overslept and missed my exam. Let me jump!"
Yatsuya:" Enough of this Godai"
Akemi;" Knock it off Godai."
Ichonise:" If you're gonna jump, find a higher building!"
Godai:" Leave me alone! Let GO!"
...sliding out of the window, Godai's eyes meet Kyoko's as he realises how foolish he looks.

END

PREVIEW TO EPISODE 2: As the new manager, I get a Christmas party thrown on my behalf, and Godai buys me a present.

Review by Robert Simmons



- TJSR -
1991